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an alternative embodiment shown in FIG. 7, by recessing mounting clip 605 and user-activated controls so that they are not protruding from their respective body portions and by configuring first body portion 205 and second body portion 210 so they mate, control panel 207 can be rotated into a closed position against mounting surface 212 shown as position "C" in FIG. 7. More specifically, in the alternative embodiment shown in FIG. 7, hinged housing 200 includes a first body portion 205 defining a first plane and having a surface with a control panel 207 and a second body portion 210 defining a second plane and having a mounting surface 212. First body portion 205 and second body portion 210 are pivotally hinged to rotate between a first position, in which the first plane and the second plane are parallel (shown in phantom as position "C"), and a second position, in which the first plane and the second plane are oblique, such that in the second position the control panel is rotated at an angle greater than 180 degrees from the mounting surface (shown in phantom as position "B"). By this configuration, hinged housing 200 may be moved between a "desktop" configuration (as shown in phantom position "A" in FIG. 7), a "hip-mounted" configuration (as shown in phantom position "B" in FIG. 7), and a closed configuration (as shown in phantom position "C" in FIG. 7).

Although not intending to be limited to any particular electronic device, hinged housings 100, 200 of the present invention may house a data input/output device having an internal computer device which measures the torques of threaded fasteners via a tensor electronic auditing wrench attached via data input/output port 400.

In summary, the hinged housing according to the present invention utilizes a hinge mechanism which provides for the rotation of one body portion with respect to the other body portion. Furthermore, the design of the hinge mechanism is such that the hinged housing may be rotated and securely held in numerous positions, thereby providing for multiple configurations, such as "desktop" configuration or a stabilized "hip-mounted" configuration. The hinged housing may be conveniently arranged by the user in these different configurations simply by rotating the body portions.

It will be appreciated that there has been provided a hinge mechanism by which two body portions of an electronic device may be rotated into user-selectable positions. Although described above with respect to use with data input/output devices, it is contemplated that the multi-position hinged housing according to the present invention may be incorporated into other electronic devices in which desktop and stabilized hip-mounted usage are desirable.

While embodiments and applications of this invention have been shown and described, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that many more modifications are possible without departing from the inventive concepts herein described. For example, although described above with respect to use with a preferred embodiment having an internal computer device which measures the torques of threaded fasteners via a tensor electronic auditing wrench attached via data input/output port, it is envisioned that other electronic or computer measuring or controlling devices may be incorporated into the first and second body portions to provide for both desktop and hip-mounted use.

It is understood, therefore, that the invention is capable of modification and therefore is not to be limited to the precise details set forth. Rather, various modifications may be made in the details within the scope and range of equivalents of the claims without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A hinged housing for an electronic device comprising:
a first body portion defining a first plane and having a surface with a control panel comprising a display unit

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and user-actuated controls for manipulating data on said display unit, and

a second body portion defining a second plane and having a mounting surface;

said first and second body portions being pivotally hinged to rotate between

a first position in which said first plane and said second plane are at an obtuse angle and

a second position in which said first plane and said second plane are oblique such that in said second position said control panel is rotated at an angle greater than 180 degrees from said mounting surface.

2. The hinged housing according to claim 1, wherein said first and second body portions are pivotally hinged by a hinge mechanism comprising a hinge pin that pivotally rotates within a cylindrical bore.

3. The hinged housing according to claim 2, further comprising a locking mechanism having a ball disposed within a hole intersecting said cylindrical bore, said ball being received by at least one ball slot provided on said hinge pin.

4. The hinged housing according to claim 2, wherein said hinge mechanism further comprises locking shoulders which engage a detent to limit the range of motion of said hinge mechanism between said first and second positions.

5. The hinged housing according to claim 4, wherein said locking shoulders are located on said second body portion and said detent is located on said first body portion.

6. The hinged housing according to claim 1, further comprising a mounting clip mounted on a mounting surface of said second body portion.

7. A hinged housing for an electronic device comprising:
a first body portion defining a first plane and having a surface with a control panel comprising a display unit and user-actuated controls for manipulating data on said display unit, and

a second body portion defining a second plane and having a mounting surface;

said first and second body portions being pivotally hinged to rotate between

a first position in which said first plane and said second plane are parallel and

a second position in which said first plane and said second plane are oblique such that in said second position said control panel is rotated at an angle greater than 180 degrees from said mounting surface.

8. The hinged housing according to claim 7, wherein said first and second body portions are pivotally hinged by a hinge mechanism comprising a hinge pin that pivotally rotates within a cylindrical bore.

9. The hinged housing according to claim 8, further comprising a locking mechanism having a ball disposed within a hole intersecting said cylindrical bore, said ball being received by at least one ball slot provided on said hinge pin.

10. The hinged housing according to claim 8, wherein said hinge mechanism further comprises locking shoulders which engage a detent to limit the range of motion of said hinge mechanism between said first and second positions.

11. The hinged housing according to claim 10, wherein said locking shoulders are located on said second body portion and said detent is located on said first body portion.

12. The hinged housing according to claim 7, further comprising a mounting clip mounted on a mounting surface of said second body portion.

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